Pledge of BIMSTEC Countries on Terrorism

*366. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation BIMSTEC countries pledge not to allow use of their territories by terrorist groups for launching attacks on friendly Governments and agreed to share information and cooperate in capacity building;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has so far been taken in pursuance of the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The First meeting of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) was held on 9th-10th December,2004. It was decided that BIMSTEC JWG-CTTC would serve as a platform for cooperation among member States to enhance their operational and strategic capabilities in preventing and suppressing terrorism and transnational crime. The 2nd meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime on May 4-5, 2006 reviewed the reports of the meetings of its 4 Sub-groups on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues, Intelligence Sharing, Combating Financing of Terrorism and Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals. The meeting decided on ways and means to further streamline the functioning of these four Sub-groups.

Funds to States under ASIDE

*367. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated funds to State Governments for creating infrastructure for development and growth of exports under ASIDE Scheme;